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RECENT LITERATURE.

Flora of Denver.¹—The author of this little book states in her prefaces that “this Flora was written with the sole aim of helping students to learn the names of the plants that grow around Denver.” She has accordingly made a simple book, in which, however, she has striven to secure a reasonable amount of scientific accuracy. In this she has succeeded very well. She has descriptions, (sometimes very short, and in sedges and grasses a mere list of names) of about 500 flowering plants, which must prove useful for the young people who study the plants of the vicinity of Denver. We understand that this is a prodrome of a more complete work to appear in the future. In it doubtless the nomenclature will be modernized and characters supplied to the families and genera.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Two Plant Catalogues.—In 1868 the Portland Society of Natural History published a Catalogue of the plants of Maine, which has been a standard list for a quarter of a century. We now have a new Catalogue² in which the results of much recent work have been incorporated. In the Catalogue proper issued in 1892 we find 1509 species and varieties of Phanerogams and 69 Pteridophytes. In the supplement these numbers are increased by 149 Phanerogams and 6 Pteridophytes. Seventy-seven names must be dropped from the original list, leaving at present a total of 1656 species and varieties. This is in truth a very good beginning toward the accomplishment of the final catalogue, of which this is but the forerunner.

The arrangement and nomenclature are ultra-conservative, and this in spite of the fact that the author recognized the propriety of changes in both. Such a course is not scientific, nor do we think it is wise. What defense can be made of this—which we find on p. 42? “While in the case of the class *Gymnorpermae* it would perhaps have been well to follow the more natural system of placing it between the *Monocotyledoneae* and the *Pteridophyta*, yet it has been thought better to follow closely the sequence adopted by Gray;” or of this in the next para-

¹ *A Popular Flora of Denver, Colorado*, by Alice Eastwood. San Francisco. Zoe Publishing Company. 1895, 57pp.

² *The Portland Catalogue of Maine Plants*, Second edition extracted from the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History, 1892, and *Supplement to the Portland Catalogue of Maine Plants*, extracted from the Proceedings of the Portland Society of Natural History, 1895, by Mr. L. Fernald.

graph? "So also the names in some cases might have been changed with advantage, but it was decided to follow the nomenclature of the 6th edition of Gray's Manual of the Botany of the Northern United States." It used to be the boast of Science that her votaries had the courage of their convictions; let us hope that this may continue.

As a list, however, the catalogue speaks well for the activity of the botanists of Maine. We note in the supplement the unlooked for occurrences of several far-western plants, viz., *Oxytropis lamberti sericea*, *Glycyrrhiza lepidota*, *Artemisia biennis*, *Cenchrus tribuloides*.

In the "Flora of Pasadena,"³—In a pamphlet of 45 pages Professor McClatchie has catalogued 1056 plants which he has found upon an area about ten miles north and south and six miles east and west, lying about the city of Pasadena, California. The southern edge of this tract is 500 feet above sea level while the northern edge rises to 5000 or 6000 feet upon the San Gabriel Mountains; at its western edge is a deep cañon traversed by a swift stream, and numerous small streams flow from the interior of the tracts.

Upon this small, but varied region have been found of Protophyta 40 species; Phycophyta, 50; Carpophyta, 350; Bryophyta, 53; Pteridophyta, 21; Spermaphyta, 542. The catalogue is therefore a list of the *plants* of the region, not of "the flowering plants and vascular cryptogams," as is so commonly the case in similar undertakings. Several things about the catalogue are especially commendable; thus, the place of publication of the new species (sixty-two) is given in all cases, a most helpful feature. This sentence, also, is significant, and hopeful; "being opposed to the naming of new species after collectors. I have attempted to prevent any being given my name, and have succeeded in all cases except one." Another commendable feature is that the author has "attempted to follow the Rochester rules for nomenclature." If we compare the two catalogues, we find that both show excellent work as their basis, but the western author is shown to have a broader conception of systematic botany, and to be less trammeled by the traditions of conservatism than the eastern one.—CHARLES E. BESSEY.

Frank's Diseases of Plants.⁴—The first volume the new edition of this useful work has recently appeared from the hand of Dr. Frank,

³ Flora of Pasadena and Vicinity, by Alfred J. McClatchie. Reprinted from Ried's History of Pasadena. Los Angeles, California, 1895.

⁴ Die Krankheiten der Pflanzen, Dr. A. B. Frank. Erster Band, Zwiete Auflage, Breslau, Verlag von Edward Trewendt, 1895, pp. 344.